

REMARKS

The Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 2, 2004 (Paper No. 5). Claims 15 to 28 are in the application, of which Claims 15, 22 and 27 are independent. Claims 1 to 14 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter. Claims 15 to 28 are being added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially and with regard to a formal matter, the Office Action returned a copy of PTO-1449, which was submitted with the October 29, 2002 Information Disclosure Statement. However, the returned copy of the PTO-1449 failed to initial the entry corresponding to GB 2,264,022. Attached hereto is a copy of the USPTO-stamped postcard, which indicates that the reference was received by the Patent Office on October 30, 2002. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests a copy of the PTO-1449, which indicates that the GB 2,264,022 reference has been considered and made formally of record.

The Office Action rejects Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In addition, Claims 1, 5 and 7 to 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,999,654 (Toujima) and EP No. 893,766 (Date), Claims 6 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Toujima, Date and U.S. Patent No. 5,490,237 (Zimmerman), and Claims 12 to 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Toujima, Date and U.S. Patent No. 5,757,965 (Ohki).

Without conceding the correctness of these rejections, Claims 1 to 14 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter. Accordingly, the rejections of these claims are believed to be moot.

New Claim 15 relates to an image processing apparatus which includes first

and second coding units, and first and second buses. The first and second coding units are each capable of at least encoding image data. The first and second buses are connected, respectively, to the first and second coding units and to a switching control unit, which is connected by a third bus to an image memory unit adapted to store image data. The switching control unit controls access from the first and second coding units to the image memory unit by providing a first data transfer channel between the first and the third bus and a second data transfer channel between the second bus and the third bus simultaneously so that image data coding by the first coding unit and image data coding by the second coding unit can be executed in parallel.

Nothing in Toujima, Date, Zimmerman nor Ohki has been found to show a switching control unit which controls access from first and second coding units to an image memory unit by providing a first data transfer channel between the first and the third bus and a second data transfer channel between the second bus and the third bus simultaneously so that image data coding by the first coding unit and image data coding by the second coding unit can be executed in parallel.

Accordingly, Claim 15 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Further, Applicants submit that Claims 22 is believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons.

Claim 27 is directed to an image processing apparatus which includes a first and second coding units, an image memory unit, a switching unit, and first, second and third buses. The first and second units encode image data. The first bus connects the first coding unit to the switching unit, and the second bus connects the second coding unit to the switching unit, while the third bus connects the image memory unit, which stores image data, to the switching unit. The switching unit switches connection from the image

memory unit to the first coding unit or the second coding unit, so that encoding by the first and second coding units are executed in parallel.

Based on the above discussion, Claim 27 is also believed to be in condition for allowance.

The other claims are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

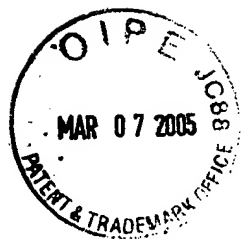
Respectfully submitted,



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Atty. Docket 03500.015028

Application No. 09/749,731

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